

# Umno to streamline ethics for aspiring contestants

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KOTA BARU, Mon. — The Umno disciplinary board is seeking to streamline the ethics governing party members aspiring to contest for party positions.

Its chairman Tengku Tan Sri Ahmad Rithauddeen Ismail said today that the board will be making recommendations “in a month or two” to prevent errant party members from still being able to contest without being penalised.

“There are loopholes that need to be plugged,” he said when met at his family residence here.

Tengku Rithauddeen said he had several ideas in mind which were based on the cases brought to the board's attention following the previous divisional elections.

He said he had held preliminary discussions on the matter with deputy party president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, who is chairman of the party's management committee.

Tengku Rithauddeen said that he would also be consulting party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter.

He said there was room for improvement in the party ethics to curb money politics, misuse of power and “political bribery” during Umno polls.

Tengku Rithauddeen said Umno members, including those aspiring to become candidates in the party polls, were now more aware of the do's and don'ts in the run-up to the election.

“They have a clear understanding of party ethics unlike before the last party polls when there was some confusion over what constituted wrongdoings as the guideline was issued when the divisional elections was around the corner.

Tengku Rithauddeen said the board had been fair to everybody and he was satisfied with its performance although he acknowledged that there were “voices of dissatisfaction by those punished by the party.”

He said those sitting on the board were experienced people who would dismiss a case if they were in doubt or did not have enough evidence to punish a member.